

TO HIRE 250 WORKERS

U. S. Ammunition Center Set for Joliet Arsenal

New Headquarters to Control Ammunition Industry in Nation

Location of the United States government Ammunition Center at Joliet Arsenal to exercise nationwide control over the entire ammunition industry, plus the hiring of 250 additional workers, was verified today in Washington, D. C.

Several weeks ago The Herald-News reported that such a move was being contemplated along with a new housing project in the

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(Continued from Page One)

of Ammunition Plants was established in August, 1942 in St. Louis, and was moved to Joliet in December, of 1945. It has served as the nucleus of all operations of ammunition plants in the country.

There are some 300 persons presently employed in the OFDAP and the immediate effect of this expansion will be the hiring of approximately 250 additional people within the next few months.

THOSE TO BE hired will be mostly technical specialists skilled in engineering and kindred fields. Persons with engineering and industrial background interested in the work are asked to contact James M. Johnson, civilian personnel officer, at the personnel office, main gate, Elwood plant.

For the time being the headquarters of the Ammunition Center will be located in the administration building of the former Kankakee Ordnance Works, Elwood. But long range plans call for erection of the permanent type building sometime in the future. It is also contemplated that some additional housing might be built on or near the Joliet Arsenal in the Elwood area.

"We are enthused that the army has selected Joliet Arsenal for the location of the Ammunition Center since this location provides many desirable features which cannot be found elsewhere," Gen. Holmes concluded.

Elwood area to serve new workers, and erection of an office building big enough to provide facilities for 1,500 workers. The office building is included in the long-range plan for the center, as is the housing project. It was also reported from Washington D. C.

Brig. Gen. Joel G. Holmes, field director of ammunition plants in the United States, with headquarters at the Arsenal, said that he had received information from Washington today that the Ammunition Center will be organized here. The Office of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants, as such, will be dissolved and its personnel will be absorbed in the expanded Ammunition Center headquarters.

"This Ammunition Center will exercise national control over the entire ammunition industry and will be changed with procurement of all components of ammunition as well as production of end-items," Gen. Holmes reported.

"JOLIET ARSENAL provides an ideal location for the Ammunition Center since it is centrally located with respect to the many industrial centers of the nation as well as the government plant that will produce explosives for loading ammunition.

"The selection of Joliet also conforms to the present army-wide policy of decentralizing from Washington as much overall control as possible," the general added.

In its announcement from Washington the army said its purpose will be to get this expanding activity out of Washington and nearer major manufacturing plants of the midwest.

The center's function will be to purchase the bulk of ordnance ammunition, to command all ordnance loading of explosive powder and chemicals and to supervise renovation of old ammunition. During World War II most of this work was done under direction from Washington," the Associated Press reported from Washington.

"AMMUNITION production has been increasing because of the tense international situation as well as to replenish stocks that have been expended in Korea," Gen. Holmes noted. "While a completely firm program has not yet been approved by the congress, it is anticipated that large sums will be appropriated to produce munitions.

The organization of the Ammunition Center will draw its nucleus of trained personnel from the Office of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants which has been located at Joliet Arsenal since December, 1945. The Office of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants, as such, will be dissolved and its personnel absorbed in the expanded Ammunition Center headquarters.

THE ADDITION of the ammunition procurement function to the Center is the largest single change to the responsibilities that have been assigned to the field director," he added.

The Office of the Field Director

(Continued on Page Two)